Meghan Howe Bishop McDevitt High School Grade 12 Third Place

"Becoming the Best"

As Albert Pine once said, "What we do for ourselves dies within us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." This quotation drips with truth, and should be a model to live by. The United States is a land of freedom, where even through corruption is evident- goodness still shines through the darkness. Every citizen has the ability to help discard the bad, and pave the way for dreams to be achieved and carried on. Individually, we can each make an impact on society, whether positive or negative, the choice is ours alone.

I choose to make a positive difference. Already and active member of the Christian Service Club at my school, community service is no stranger to me. As a member of this club, I have gone to nursing homes to assist the elderly residents in playing bingo, helped mentally retarded citizens bowl on the weekends, and served food at the Saint Francis soup kitchen. There have also been many other activities in which I have participated, each creating a sense of love in society and within myself.

In the future, I plan to major in either Elementary Education or Counseling. I feel it is important that each person have the opportunity to receive an education. By possibly being a teacher, I can take part in fulfilling that opportunity. If I were to take on the position of a counselor, I would then be available to reach out and provide those living difficult lives with guidance and support. Another way to expel evil in society is through friendship. Being a good friend to someone is the best gift imaginable. With friends, it's hard not to smile and be happy- and happiness is contagious.

(Meghan Howe continued)

Though there are many things we can do to carry out the dream of Martin Luther King Jr., the most effective way to do so is by simply being yourself. Nobody says this better than Harold Taylor. "The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become." He is absolutely right. If we become the best that we can possibly be, that everything we do will reflect that.

In conclusion, I will continue doing acts of community service, and work hard to achieve my future goals. I will be there for my friends through sunshine and rain, loving even those who choose not to return the friendship. And each day, I will learn something new about myself, growing in wisdom and faith, sharpening the tools in my heart and mind, so that one day I can be the best I can be; so I help make the world be a better place for us all.